

October 8, 2004

From: OPNAV Command Information Officer

To: OPNAV Staff

Subj: Policy Memo - Providing "BlackBerry" Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to the OPNAV Staff

1. All Flag Officers, members of the Senior Executive Service (SES), and Executive Assistants who are in OPNAV billets or positions are eligible for a BlackBerry Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), with built-in cell phone capabilities (commonly referred to as a "BlueBerry" because of its color), through NMCI. Under the current funding model, the Assistant for Administration, Office of the Under Secretary of the Navy (AAUSN) coordinates the purchase of the device and pays for the cell phone activation and service. OPNAV CIO (DNS-4) pays for the initial activation of data services and the associated monthly service costs through NMCI. The cost of purchasing the device (prices vary, typically around \$250) will be borne by the Directorate or Division and can be coordinated with the AAUSN Facilities and Support Services Division (FSSD, Ms. Cheryl Van Gorp, 703-697-3296) using the same local representatives currently used to coordinate cell phone purchase and services. Under this model, NMCI will be responsible for proper operation of the data services to these "BlueBerries" but not the phone services or the physical device (hardware loss, failure, or damage). Hardware and phone service issues will be addressed by AAUSN FSSD.

2. OPNAV Staff members who do not belong to one of the groups mentioned above, but who already have an NMCI provided BlackBerry are also eligible for "BlueBerry" services as described above. These individuals have already justified their need for a BlackBerry and so are eligible for a "BlueBerry".

3. OPNAV Staff members who do not belong to one of the groups mentioned in paragraph 1, and who do not already have an NMCI provided BlackBerry (paragraph 2), are not eligible for a "BlueBerry". Exceptions to this policy can be requested through your NMCI Assistant Customer Technical Representative (ACTR) with an explanation of the special circumstances associated with the role of the desired recipient. OPNAV CIO will assess the funding impact of the exception requests and approve them as appropriate.

4. This policy memorandum specifically addresses the use of a particular model of PDA for a specific group of users. It in no way supersedes applicable DoN or DoD guidance for Personal Digital Assistants.



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